LOCK ON TARGET – DICTATUS LETS RIP!

WARHAMMER MONTHLY

#48

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WARHAMMER MONTHLY

We've had a couple of letters recently bemoaning the lack of fantasy strips in the pages of Warhammer Monthly so I thought I'd take this opportunity to reassure our swords and sorcery loving readers that Warhammer fantasy strips will be well and truly to the fore in 2002. As those of you who read the interview with Mitchel Scanlon last issue already know, Helmar and Katarina – introduced in issue 41's *Of Ancient Blood* – will return for a new series of adventures early in the new year and another character who debuted in the same issue, Liliana Falcone, will be back for more cut-throat adventures next summer. And let's not forget Hellbrandt Grimm who'll be embarking on an adventure that will be keeping him busy for all of next year and beyond... if he manages to survive that long!

But Mitchel's not the only one who's hoisting the banner for fantasy, Dan Abnett has conjured up a stunning new epic simply entitled *The Warhammer* and none other than Colin MacNeil himself will be illustrating the debut episode! Look out for other top name artists to pick up the Warhammer and run with it over the next year. Add to this the conclusion of the third book of Darkblade early next year and the commencement of book four around Christmas time and I think even the most demanding Warhammer fan will find themselves will find themselves with plenty to look forward to in 2002.

CHRISTIAN DUNN

TITAN

With Imperius Dictatio dead on its feet, Hekate prepares to repel boarders!

DAEMONIFUGE

Ephrael's destiny awaits, but only if she can escape from the evil city of Commoragh.

SOLDIER'S TALE

Terror beneath the earth in a horrifying tale of the Ten-Tailed Cat.

INQUISITOR

In the Blitz Worlds many things can be found. Glory. Death. *Defay?*

NO HOLDEN BACK

An interview with PJ Holden. The young artist behind this month's Soldier's Tale.

DISPATCHES:

Scourge and Purge! Rejoice brothers and sisters for Klovis the Redeemer has returned to once again rid Necromunda of mutants, heretics and deviants. See him take on the combined might of a mutant scaly, a four armed ape and a cyborg bounty hunter with one hand tied behind his back in December's giant-sized issue 50.

Remember last issue I told you that Clint Langley's next project would be a special Darkblade story for the aforementioned fiftieth anniversary issue? Well being the thoroughly splendid chap that he is he managed to fit in the cover for our next Warhammer 40,000 fiction anthology, Words of Blood. It's not out until next March but here's a little taster.

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KLANK
TITAN
COLD STEEL
HNFF!
HNFF!
HNFF!
SCRIPT: DAN ABNETT
ART: ANTHONY WILLIAMS

GNNG! GNNGGGRR!
PUT YOUR BACK INTO IT! GET IT OPEN, YOU WORTHLESS MAGGOT!
GET IT OPEN! *RIP IT OPEN!*
IT'S GIVING! GNHHH! IT'S *OPENING!*

OF ~~CHAOS~~ IT'S OPENING, YOU MORON!
MODERATI VOSS- GET THIS SLIME ~~OFF~~ MY TITAN!
AYE, PRINCEPS!
BTOOOM!
AAIIEGG!
NOOOOO!

I AM PRINCEPS *HEKATE!* YOU WILL NOT DEFILE A WAR TITAN OF THE ADEPTUS MECHANICS! LET ITS NAME BE THE *LAST* SOUND YOU HEAR!
IMPERIUS DICTATIO! *IMPERIUS DICTATIO!*
GNNNHHH...
BTOOOOM! BTOOOM!
AAIIIEE!
AAGGH!
UGHHNNFF!
YESSSS!

GOOD WORK, MODERATI.
THANK YOU, PRINCEPS, ONE LAST TOUCH...
MMMM-WHA!
GO DO YOUR WORK!
DO IT WELL...
BB-B-THOOM!!

PRINCEPS TO ALL CREW. THE LEFT MOTIVE LIMB IS SECURE! SEE TO YOUR WORK WITH ALL VIGILANCE. THE EMPEROR PROTECTS
THE EMPEROR PROTECTS!
ENSIGN FERRON, I TRUST THE RIGHT MOTIVE LIMB IS SECURE?
ALMOST THERE, PRINCEPS! THE E-MAG PULSE OF THAT DEVICE CRIPPLED EVEN THE BASIC ELECTRICAL NETWORK.
BUT I SHOULD HAVE POWER BACK TO ALL SYSTEMS IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES
MAKE IT FIVE, DORN. MAKE IT FIVE.
PRINCEPS TO ENGINEER...
DORN! SAY YOU HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR ME!

ENSIGN FERRON! RESPOND!
ENSIGN FERRON! RESPOND! THIS IS YOUR PRINCEPS! RESPOND NOW!
ENSIGN FERRON! RESP--
SKRUTCHH!
NOW WE HAVE HER...

NEXT: DYING INSIDE

IN DREAD COMMORRAGH, SOMETHING WAS WRONG.
THE ARCHON LORDS, HIDDEN IN THEIR HIGH TOWERS, FELT IT, AND PAUSED FOR A SECOND FROM THEIR ENDLESS PLANS OF MURDER AND PLUNDER.
IN THEIR LABORATORIES AND TORTURE GARDENS, THE MASTER HAEMONCULI ALSO GAVE PAUSE, THEIR ATTENTION DRAWN AWAY FOR THE BRIEFEST MOMENT FROM THE EXQUISITE PLEASURES OF THE SCREAMS OF THEIR VICTIMS
IN CAVERNS IMPOSSIBLY FAR BELOW THE SURFACE, WARP BEASTS FOUGHT AGAINST THEIR RESTRAINTS AND TORE IN FURY AT THEIR OWN FLESH, DESPERATE TO BE UNLEASHED TO HUNT AND KILL.
DAEMONIFUGE
THE LORD of DAMNATION
CHAPTER TEN
Script: Gordon Rennie
Art: Chris Quilliams
Letters: Fiona Stephenson

IN DREAD COMMORRAGH, SOMETHING WAS WRONG.
WAIT! THESE PEOPLE... WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THEM HERE.
MON-KEIGH THINKING. SO BLIND, SO LIMITED...
FEAR. COMPASSION. IGNORANCE, LUST FOR POWER, FOR KNOWLEDGE. THESE ARE CRUDE MON-KEIGH CONCERNS, THRICE BORN.
YOU ARE NO LONGER MON-KEIGH. YOU MUST LEAVE BEHIND YOUR LOW ANIMAL SELF. YOU MUST TRANSCEND.
ALL THAT MATTERS. YOUR DESTINY. THE SECRET KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU CARRY WITHIN YOU.
SHOW THAT YOU ARE NO LONGER MON-KEIGH. YES. SHOW THIS ONE THAT YOU ARE WORTHY OF THE GIFT THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO YOU.

THE WEAPON IN MY HAND. ALIEN. UNFAMILIAR.
THE ENEMIES BEFORE ME EVEN MORE SO.

DARK ANCIENT THINGS, STEEPED IN EVIL AND CRUELTY
ABOMINATIONS, SERVANTS OF A POWER INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO MERE HUMAN MINDS.

MY WOULD-BE ALLY ANOTHER ALIEN. ANOTHER ABOMINATION.
ALL MY LIFE, I HAVE BEEN TAUGHT TO HATE AND FEAR THE ALIEN AND INHUMAN, BUT NOW ALL HAS CHANGED NOW / HAVE CHANGED-

' ABOMINATION ' THEY HAVE CALLED ME.
MON-KEIGH. HERETIC.
RENEGADE.

BUT NOW I KNOW THAT NONE OF THESE THINGS ARE TRUE.

NOW I KNOW WHAT I TRULY AM

IMPRESSIVE ESPECIALLY FOR A MERE MON-KEIGH
THESE THINGS ARE NOT OF CHAOS, BUT THEIR SOULS ARE SOMEHOW TIED TO THE POWERS OF THE WARP AND SO MY POWER IS LETHAL TO THEM.

AND CALL ME THAT NAME AGAIN, ALIEN. AND I'LL TURN IT ON YOU AND SEE IF I CAN'T COOK THE MEAT OFF YOUR INHUMAN BONES

MORE OF THEM.
MORE THAN YOUR POWER CAN YET DEAL WITH.
I DOUBT YOU FREED ME JUST FOR US BOTH TO DIE LIKE THIS

ESCAPE. YES WEBWAY PORTAL. VERY ANCIENT VERY DIFFICULT TO USE EVEN FOR WE OF THE ELDAR

ANOTHER TEST
THIS DEVICE. ALIEN AND ARCANE I TOUCH IT WITH MY MIND SENSING THE POWER WITHIN IT GENTLY PROBING IT. TRYING TO UNLOCK IT.

HURRY WE MUST CLOSE THE PORTAL BEFORE THEY CAN PURSUE US INTO THE WEBWAY
NO.
LET THEM COME. I'M NOT FINISHED WITH THEM YET!

THERE IS SOMETHING THAT THESE THINGS FEAR. SOME GREAT TERROR THAT EVEN THEY DARE NOT SPEAK OF. I CAN SENSE IT. OUT THERE IN THE EMPYREAN. CLAWING HUNGRILY AT THE THIN WALLS OF THIS PASSAGE

MY ABILITIES GROW ALL THE TIME NOW IT IS A SIMPLE THING TO TEAR THOSE WALLS ASUNDER DELIVER THEM INTO THE MAW OF THE THING THEY CALL THE GREAT DEVOURER

IMPRESSIVE, YES...

MOST IMPRESSIVE

WHAT ARE YOUR COMMANDS, MASTER?
COMPLETE THE PREPARATIONS. THEY ARE COMING AT LAST.
'AT ONCE, MY LORD'
TO BE CONCLUDED

TALES FROM THE TEN-TAILED CAT

The Soldier's Tale

SCRIPT: MITCHEL SCANLON
ART: P.J. HOLDEN
LETTERS: FIONA STEPHENSON

THE TEN-TAILED CAT IN TALABHEIM, KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE CITY AS A GATHERING PLACE FOR RACONTEURS AND THE TELLERS OF TALL TALES.

THEY COME TO THE TEN-TAILED CAT FOR MANY REASONS

SOME TO BOAST OF THEIR EXPLOITS, SOME TO AMUSE AND ENTERTAIN. OTHERS TO UNBURDEN THEIR SOULS OR PASS ON DIRE WARNINGS...

...WHILE SOME JUST COME TO HEAR THEMSELVES TALK - BRAGGING OF FUTURE PLANS TO ANYONE WHO WILL LISTEN.

DON'T GET ME WRONG, FRIEND - IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF BEING GREEDY. BUT NO SOLDIER EVER MADE HIS FORTUNE IN THE EMPIRE

NOT LIKE IN TILEA--

SMKK

HMM. MUST BE ONE OF THEM MAN-HUNTERS.

ANYHOW. WAY I HEAR IT, IN TILEA A MAN CAN WAKE UP A SELLSWORD AND GO TO BED A PRINCE. AND SO COME MORNING, THAT'S WHERE I'M BOUND

BUT YOU ARE A SOLDIER OF THE EMPIRE - WHAT OF YOUR DUTY?

PHH. YOU EVER KNOWN DUTY TO PUT BREAD ON A MAN'S TABLE OR GOLD IN HIS PURSE?

NO OFFENCE, OLD MAN, BUT IT'S PLAIN YOU'VE NEVER BEEN A SOLDIER.

BUT YOU ARE WRONG. ONCE, I WAS A SOLDIER. AND, MUCH MORE THAN THAT.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WAS JUST LIKE YOU!

IT SEEMS SO LONG AGO NOW, ANOTHER LIFETIME.
BUT, AS A CHILD, I THRILLED TO THE SOUND OF FIFE, DRUM AND MARCHING FEET, AND RESOLVED TO FOLLOW THEM IN SEARCH OF GLORY.
AND, PUTTING GREED BEFORE DUTY, WE DESCENDED INTO THE DARKNESS.
BUT, DESPITE ALL THIS, THE ALLURING THOUGHT OF THE WEALTH THAT MIGHT LAY BENEATH OUR VERY FEET WAS TOO STRONG TO RESIST.
LEGEND HAD IT THE TOMB WAS THE LAST RESTING-PLACE OF A MURDEROUS BRETONNIAN NOBLEWOMAN OF AGES PAST, AND OUR ORDERS IN THE MATTER WERE CLEAR--
--UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE WERE WE TO ENTER HER TOMB
FOR, FOLLOWING THE CHANCE DISCOVERY OF AN UNDERGROUND TOMB THERE, I WAS AMONG THOSE SENT TO GUARD IT UNTIL THE PROPER AUTHORITIES COULD BE SUMMONED TO INVESTIGATE.
AND SO IT WAS THAT, AT THE AGE OF TWENTY, WITH FOUR MISERABLE YEARS IN THE ARMY OF THE BURGOMEISTERS OF MARIENBURG BEHIND ME, I CAME TO AN ISOLATED PART OF THE WASTELANDS.
ONLY TO FIND, IN THE COLD LIGHT OF ADULTHOOD, JUST HOW HOLLOW AND TREACHEROUS CHILDISH DREAMS CAN BE

INSIDE, WE FOUND RICHES BEYOND OUR WILDEST DREAMS--
SWEET SIGMAR
MAKE IT QUICK, LADS!
AND LET US BE GONE BEFORE ANYONE'S THE WISER.
--AND A HORROR BEYOND OUR DARKEST NIGHTMARES.

EEEEEEEEEEE
AS IT BECAME APPARENT JUST WHAT HAD BECOME OF THE TOMB'S OCCUPANT.

THE BANSHEE
NO MORTAL THROAT COULD GIVE VOICE TO SUCH A HOWL, JUST AS NO MORTAL WORDS COULD EVER HOPE TO DESCRIBE IT.

FOR THE TORMENTS KNOWN BY MOST MEN ARE, BY THEIR NATURE, FINITE--
--WHILE THE BANSHEE'S AGONIES ARE EVERLASTING.

AS ARE MINE.
FOR, THOUGH I ESCAPED HER TOMB, THERE WAS NO ESCAPING THE MEMORY OF HER CRY. A CRY I HEAR - IN MY DREAMS - EACH AND EVERY NIGHT.
SO, I BES YOU: HEED MY WORDS. TAKE PRIDE IN THE SIMPLE JOYS OF THE SOLDIER'S LIFE, AND BEWARE THE TEMPTATION TO SEEK UNEARNED FORTUNE. FOR YOU MAY NEVER KNOW THE PRICE OF GREED--

--UNTIL IT IS FAR TOO LATE
ACH, GUSTAV. WE THOUGHT WE'D LOST YOU. COME NOW. IT IS TIME YOU WERE IN BED
BUT I AM NOT TIRED PLEASE, JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER...
YOU NEED YOUR REST, GUSTAV. YOU ARE NOT WELL.
PLEASE... DO NOT MAKE ME SLEEP
PRICE OF GREED, MY BACKSIDE! BIG WORDS FROM A RICH MAN WHO'S LIVED TO BE A RIPE OLD AGE
YOU HEAR ME, OLD MAN· I'D TAKE GOLD OVER A FEW BAD DREAMS ANYTIME!
THEN, YOU ARE A FOOL - UNLESS YOU CONSIDER THIRTY TO BE A 'RIPE OLD AGE'
THIRTY? PHH. NO OFFENCE, FRIEND, BUT YOUR FATHER LOOKS TO BE A DAMN SIGHT OLDER.
PERHAPS BUT IT IS TERROR THAT HAS AGED HIM - NOT THE PASSING OF YEARS AND I SHOULD KNOW.
NOT BECAUSE HE IS MY FATHER...
--BUT BECAUSE HE IS MY SON.
THE END

THE BLITZ WORLDS.
A CLENCHED FIST OF PLANETS WHERE THE FORCES OF THE IMPERIUM HAVE BEEN LOCKED IN FEROCIOUS CONFLICT WITH THE POWERS OF CHAOS FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS.
THERE IS GLORY TO BE FOUND HERE, AND DEATH. BUT I HAVE COME LOOKING FOR METHODS.
MY NAME IS INTERROGATOR GRAVIER AND WHAT I'M SEARCHING FOR IS TRUTH.
SNKKT!
...LISTEN WELL, YES?
EVIDENCE HAS SHOWN THAT HE IS IN THIS WARZONE, COMMANDING A PERSONAL FORCE OF TROOPS ARMED AND ASSEMBLED BY HIM ILLEGALLY OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS.
WE HUNT FOR A MAN CALLED DEFAY... ONCE AN INQUISITOR, NOW A HERETIC.
I AM INQUISITOR REIKER, AND YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN INTO MY COMMAND FOR THIS MISSION
HIS PURPOSE HERE IS NOT KNOWN TO US, YES? BUT WE WILL FIND HIM.
AND WE WILL CRUSH HIS HERESY ONCE AND FOR ALL.
REIKER. MY NEW MASTER ARCHITECT OF THIS HUNT
HE'S ALREADY DECIDED DEFAY'S GUILT.
I PLAN TO CHANGE HIS MIND.

Inquisitor Ascendant

Episode Two: Part Eight

SCRIPT: DAN ABNETT • ART: JIM BRADY
LETTERS: FIONA STEPHENSON

...I KNOW DEFAY. I KNOW HE CANNOT BE A HERETIC.
I WILL PROVE THAT TO REIKER... OR I WILL STOP HIM. THIS HAS GONE TOO FAR.
GRAVIER...
...I READ YOU LIKE A BOOK.
YOU STILL ENTERTAIN THOUGHTS THAT YOUR ONCE-MASTER IS INNOCENT, YES?
PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE IS THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF SOUND INQUISITION... MASTER REIKER.
ANOTHER OF DEFAYS TEACHINGS, BOY? DON'T PROVOKE ME!
WE WILL FIND HIM AND YOU WILL HELP ME TERMINATE HIM, YES?
AHKKK! A-AND IF HE IS INNOCENT?
HE ISN'T.
AND YOU WILL THANK ME FOR BEING SURE ABOUT THAT.
AGHH!
THIS IS NEITHER THE PLACE OR TIME FOR WEAKNESS AND SENTIMENT, GRAVIER
GET READY TO DO YOU'RE DUTY WE MOVE OUT AT DAWN.

WITH THE SECONDED STRIKE FORCE, WE MOVE DOWN RIVER
IMPERIAL GUARD RECON HAS REPORTED THE ACTIVITY OF AN *UNIDENTIFIED* UNIT IN THIS QUADRANT
REIKER FEELS SURE THIS IS DEFAY, AND FOR *ONCE* I AGREE
DEFAY SPENT A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT ASSEMBLING A PRIVATE ARMY AND BRINGING THEM HERE
WHY, MASTER? WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE HERE? IF *ONLY* I KNEW!
WE'VE STOPPED THE ENGINES IDLE
I HEAR THE SQUAD LEADER TALKING ABOUT SENSOR TRACES ON THE SHORELINE
THE STRIKE TEAM DEPLOYS THIS IS IT
I FEEL MY HEART BEATING FAST, AND TH-

BRAKKA BRAKKA
BRAKKA
INNOCENT, IS HE? YES? INNOCENT?
I... I...

...LOOK OUT!
WHAT? N-NO...
BADOOM!

GRAAAHHH!
NO, HORST! PULL HIM OUT!

D-DEFAY..?
GRAVIER, MY OLD, DEAR FRIEND..
...IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME
COME ASHORE. THERE ARE SECRETS I NEED TO TELL YOU TRUTHS. THE FATE OF THE IMPERIUM HANGS IN THE BALANCE
IT'S HIM! AT LAST! AND JUST SEEING HIM, I KNOW I WAS RIGHT
HE DOES HAVE SOME GREAT AND SECRET AGENDA
...AND IF HE'D ONLY SURVIVED THAT DAMNED FOOL REIKER WOULD SEE HOW WRONG HE'D BEEN..
DEFAY.. IT'S TIME TO DIE, YES?
NEXT. DEATHMATCH

NEW FROM THE BLACK LIBRARY

Those lucky few who caught our Deathwing strip in either the colour special or in issue 36 will be excited to know that the full story of Two-Heads Talking, the fate of the planet and the inception of the Deathwing, the secretive inner circle of the Dark Angels is being reprinted in our novel release this month.

'Deathwing', the classic anthology, long out of print, has now been recollected with new stories from WHM writer Dan Abnett, Gav Thorpe and Graham McNeill, as well as the original tales from people such as noted sf-author Ian Watson and William 'Gotrek & Felix' King. To accompany this release there's also an ace new Deathwing t-shirt that will be available online and through mail order only.

Inferno! 27 will also be hitting the shelves shortly, and this issue will be essential reading for anyone who enjoyed Dan Abnett's Eisenhorn book 'Xenos' or Gav Thorpe's Kage & the Last Chancers series, as both Eisenhorn and Kage appear! The Eisenhorn story 'Missing in Action' bridges the gap between 'Xenos' and the second book 'Malleus' out in December, while the Kage story 'Liberty' details his life right before the events of the new novel 'Kill Team' mentioned last issue.

Finally, there's also 'The Face of Battle' a brand-new artbook showcasing the work of David Gallagher, one of Games Workshop's premier artists. This collection of some of the most visceral images of the dark worlds of Warhammer and Warhammer 40,000 will be available as a lavish, full-colour, oversized softback which is like to disappear from the stores just as quickly as the others in the artbook range.

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INCOMING

+

+

++ Dear Humans
Be warned the Ork invasion of Earth has begun. I have absolute proof that in the heart of our capital city, the Ork race is planning a devastating invasion right before our very eyes. Well that's how it looked to me anyway. But then I do see things the way Orks do.
The attached picture of an Ork

Gargant under construction was taken on 22 July, 2001 near London Bridge.
Perhaps you should investigate?

+

+ Pete

+ Via e-mail

+

++ Your vigilance is noted and appreciated, brother. Kill teams will be despatched just as soon as they've finished dismantling the Millennium Dome, which was obviously a foul construct of Chaos!

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NEXT ISSUE

RUN TO THE HILLS!
HELLBRANDT GRIMM IS BACK PLUS
TITAN, DARKBLADE & BLOOD RITES.

Minutemen

Read it,
Like it?
Buy it!

Abaddon

AK-47. The very best there is. When you absolutely, positively got to kill every motherfucker in the room, accept no substitutes.